



HOMAN & BADGER, Publishers.

"OUR HOME, OUR COUNTRY AND OUR BROTHER MAN."

TERMS: Two Dollars, in Advance

Vol. XLV.

Maine Farmer.

S. L. BOARDMAN, Agricultural Editor.

Forthcoming Events.

MAINE STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY—Admission to the Annual Meeting, New State House, Wednesday, Jan. 17th, at 11 o'clock A. M.

MAINE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE—Winter meeting, State House, Wednesday, Jan. 17th, at 11 o'clock A. M.

MAINE STATE POLYLOGICAL SOCIETY—Winter meeting, State House, Wednesday, Jan. 22-24.

MAINE STATE CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY—Annual meeting at Eugene Hall, Skowhegan, Saturday, Feb. 2d, at 11 o'clock A. M.

Mechanical Instruction at Orono.

We hardly need to direct attention to the theories of an intelligent correspondent, which appears in another part of this impression, on the Russian system of mechanical instruction which was brought to the notice of educators during the late International Exposition at Philadelphia, which had already been introduced into some of the technical schools in this country, and which the Trustees are earnestly striving to have adopted into the State College at Orono. Instruction in the mechanical arts should be next to instruction in agriculture, one of the leading features of the Orono system of study. It was to promote better, without excluding other necessary branches, that the college was established; yet it has been going on for nine years without making the least effort to provide practical instruction in this direction. It is true, the Trustees have been mindful of their obligations in this particular, but they have failed to carry them out, because they failed to comprehend the simplicity of a practical system of shop instruction like that to which attention is now directed; and believed such instruction in the arts could only be acquired by having elaborate and extensively equipped shops, costing, perhaps, from twenty to forty thousand dollars, and to provide which there were no funds, and no prospect of getting any for the purpose. Hence the Trustees, the faculty, and the pupils got along as best they could with a course in the arts which was purely theoretical, and consequently of comparatively small advantage to the scholar. In agriculture—notwithstanding the instruction is very far below what it should be—the showing is much better. The farm, the stock, the implements, and the manipulations and processes in practical farming which are required of the students in the agricultural course, taken with the class room instruction and laboratory practice, give a real and tangible training which is of positive value. In the engineering course, the facilities for similar actual work of a practical, educational character are also very satisfactory, and those taking this course make very good use of them. Now it is proposed to so extend and enlarge the facilities of the institution, that it shall, in deed, and in truth, give to the students in the mechanical arts a thorough, practical instruction. The plan embraces an adoption of the Russian system of shop instruction, modified to meet the exact wants of the, in a small school like ours.

At Honest Fall for Turt Reform.

It does us good to know, as we do in another column, the chief part of a private letter recently received from an old lover of the sport of the turf, at one time a leading Trustee and manager in the State Agricultural Society, and a prominent and influential personage in social and political life.

He has the true ring of honest reform, and trust the vigorous appeal he makes in behalf of the establishment of pool selling, wheel turning, and every other game of chance from our fair grounds, under penalty of forfeiture of the State bounty—will be heeded by gentlemen interested in our horse breeding industry, and will result in the passage of a stringent law, the present winter, controlling and checking these evils which are undermining the success and prosperity of our agricultural societies and competitive industrial exhibitions. This letter is but a sample of many we have received since the publication of our article upon this subject, in the FARMER of 30th Dec.

We rejoice at the receipt of such letters, and are glad to find many firm friends of turf reform, among those who have in the past had much to do with racing and agricultural exhibitions. They are coming to the right side, and we have the strong effort now being made in behalf of this matter, in one sure to bring good results. Let us all work for it.

Editorial Notes.

Horsemen will be interested in our review of our Maine trotters during 1876, contributed to this number of the FARMER, by Mr. J. W. Thompson, the accurate and painstaking compiler of "Matured Breeds."

We learn that Gen. C. P. Mattocks of Portland, has sold, during the past month, out of a flock of 127 thoroughbred Cotswools, over sixty grade Cotswool ewes.

The flock owned by Gen. Mattocks is composed of imported ewes bred by such famous breeders as Cole, Lane, Walker and Gillett—and served in 1874 by Golden Fleeces.

Gray, which won many premiums in Eng-

land and reached the enormous weight of 475 lbs., and the past year, by two imported rams, whose lamb took the highest honors at the last New England Fair, and two of them, two or three duplicates each were ordered.

The quarries at Hallowell are situated some three miles from the city, at which some seventy-five men are now employed.

The character of the stone is very white—

appearing at a little distance like white marble—and is composed of feldspar, gray mica and small quantities of feldspar, the former predominating. It is one of the most durable granites known, is susceptible of the finest polish, and from tests made by Gen. Quincy A. Gillmore, it possesses a crushing strength of nearly 18,000 lbs to the cubic inch, while the best Italian marble succumbs to a pressure four, and sometimes even five times less.

The companies' works are now the nearest to the right side, and we have the strong effort now being made in behalf of this matter, in one sure to bring good results. Let us all work for it.

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CITY NEWS AND GOSIP. The party given by Senator and Mrs. Blaine, on Friday evening, to the members of the Legislature and State officers, and to the citizens of Augusta, was a very brilliant affair. The large mansion house of the Senator was well filled with guests, and with social intercourse, a bountiful repast, and music and dancing, the evening was very pleasantly passed.—Rufus Beman of Hallowell, in a covered sleigh, came near being run over by a train at the foot of Rines' Hill, Saturday.—The juries were discharged from further service on Saturday. The Court has been in session 69 working days, said to have been the longest term ever held in Kennebec County. There has been only 34 jury trials.—The days have lengthened nearly half an hour.—"Boston chips," the new kind of confectionary, may be found at Clapp's; it is pure and wholesome, and the children are delighted with it.—J. C. Huston and John Stierman, were committed to jail by Judge True, Friday, for drunkenness. D. F. Sanborn was adjudged guilty of keeping intoxicating liquors for sale, and recognized for his appearance at the S. J. Court.—Seth Williams Post was inspected last week by inspector Shaw of Lisbon. He complimented the Post on its appearance and manner in which its reports are kept.—Dr. Harlow and Mr. B. F. Parrott are making preparations for building brick blocks on the burnt district.—G. W. Jones, auctioneer, has leased the small building opposite Parrott and Chase's store where he may be found at all business hours.—James E. Fuller has sold his thoroughbred mare Queen Victoria, to Mr. Munro for \$1500.—Mr. Caleb Packard, who lives on Western Avenue, was badly injured Thursday, by being run against by a runaway team which was carelessly left unhitched by Orville Davis of Sidney.—The new profit of St. Marks' Society, of the exhibition at Grand Hall last week was about \$200.—Miss Charlotte C. Johnson will read at Gratz Hall, this (Thursday) evening, under the auspices of Seth Williams Post. Tickets admitting to any part of the Hall 25 cents.—The next session of the Universal Sabbath School Convention will be held in this city about the first of November.—Another driving snow storm set in Monday night; there are now nearly four feet of snow, and the end is not yet.—The wife of Speaker Nealey died of consumption in Bangor, Monday. She was a guest at the Augusta House during the last session of the Legislature, and had many warm friends in this city, who will deeply regret her early death.—The severe snow storm of the night before did not prevent the ladies of the Universal church from having a good house at their entertainment Tuesday evening. All the stage performances passed off creditably, and the loaded tables were well patronized. Dancing closed a very pleasant evening's entertainment.—Mercury at 16 degrees below zero Wednesday morning.—Senator Blaine left Augusta for Washington, Wednesday.

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